

What is claimed is:

1. A request for quote (RFQ) system incorporating one or more customer systems and one or more supplier systems, the RFQ system comprising an application server, a database server and an RFQ website, the application server being interconnected with the database server and the RFQ website through a means of communication, wherein the application server comprises:

- a data receipt module provided for receiving one or more RFQ spreadsheets from said customer systems, and for inquiring of item information in said supplier systems when the item information is not available in the RFQ system;
- a data verification module provided for determining whether a customer is a new one, and for ascertaining whether all item information specified in said RFQ spreadsheets is available;
- a data creation module provided for creating an account for a new customer, and for creating RFQ numbers according to said RFQ spreadsheets;
- an RFQ report generation module provided for generating one or more RFQ reports according to said RFQ spreadsheets, the RFQ numbers and one or more bills of material (BOMs) imported according to customer part numbers comprised in said RFQ spreadsheets; and
- an RFQ response transmission module provided for receiving one or more RFQ responses to said RFQ reports, and for transmitting said RFQ responses to said customer systems.

2. The RFQ system according to claim 1, further comprising an enterprise resource planning (ERP) server for providing BOMs which comprise item information specified in said RFQ spreadsheets.

3. The RFQ system according to claim 1, wherein the database server controls operations of maintaining information stored in a database connected to the

database server.

4. The RFQ system according to claim 1, wherein the RFQ website provides an operating platform for performing RFQ activities, and is accessible to users of said customer systems and said supplier systems.

5. A computer-based method for processing requests for quotes (RFQs) received from one or more customers by implementing an RFQ system, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving one or more RFQ spreadsheets from said customers;

determining whether any of said customers are new ones;

creating RFQ numbers in the RFQ system according to said RFQ spreadsheets;

importing one or more bills of material (BOMs) into the RFQ system according to customer part numbers comprised in said RFQ spreadsheets;

generating one or more RFQ reports according to said RFQ spreadsheets, the RFQ numbers and said BOMs; and

responding to said RFQ reports, and transmitting one or more RFQ responses to said customers.

6. The RFQ method according to claim 5, further comprising the step of creating an account for any new customer.

7. The RFQ method according to claim 5, further comprising the step of determining whether all item information specified in said RFQ reports is available in a database.

8. The RFQ method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of receiving item information from one or more corresponding suppliers if corresponding item information is not available in the database.

9. A request for quote (RFQ) system incorporating one or more customer systems and one or more supplier systems, the RFQ system comprising an

application server including:

- a data receipt module provided for receiving one or more RFQ spreadsheets from said customer systems, and for inquiring of item information in said supplier systems when the item information is not available in the RFQ system;
- a data verification module provided for ascertaining whether all item information specified in said RFQ spreadsheets is available;
- a data creation module provided for creating RFQ numbers according to said RFQ spreadsheets;
- an RFQ report generation module provided for generating one or more RFQ reports according to said RFQ spreadsheets, the RFQ numbers and one or more bills of material (BOMs) imported according to customer part numbers comprised in said RFQ spreadsheets; and
- an RFQ response transmission module provided for receiving one or more RFQ responses to said RFQ reports, and for transmitting said RFQ responses to said customer systems.